

MAR 13 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TO
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO STREAMLINE THE STATE'S WORKERS'
COMPENSATION PROCESS.

1 WHEREAS, the purpose of the State's workers' compensation
2 law is to provide wage loss compensation and medical care to
3 employees for work-related injuries; and
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5 WHEREAS, workers' compensation claims are processed by the
6 Disability Compensation Division of the Department of Labor and
7 Industrial Relations; and
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9 WHEREAS, the current workers' compensation system is, at
10 times, inadequate in providing timely relief to workers injured
11 in the course of their employment; and
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13 WHEREAS, injured claimants have experienced significant
14 delays in the processing of their workers' compensation claims;
15 and
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17 WHEREAS, injured claimants have complained that scheduling
18 an independent medical examination can take longer than a year
19 despite repeated requests and inquiries; and
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21 WHEREAS, payments following the execution of a settlement
22 agreement have also been known to take over six months to
23 process; now, therefore,
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,
27 that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is
28 requested to convene a working group to streamline the State's
29 workers' compensation process under chapter 386, Hawaii Revised
30 Statutes; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that
2 the working group consider streamlining the filing process for
3 workers' compensation claims by converting to a computerized
4 system; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Labor and
7 Industrial Relations or the Director's designee is requested to
8 serve as Chairperson of the working group and to invite the
9 following to serve as members:
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- 11 (1) Insurers that issue workers' compensation insurance
12 policies in the State;
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- 14 (2) Attorneys who represent employers and employees in
15 workers' compensation claims;
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- 17 (3) A representative of a mutual benefit society operating
18 in the State;
19
- 20 (4) A representative of a health maintenance organization
21 operating in the State;
22
- 23 (5) Health care providers; and
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- 25 (6) Any other persons deemed appropriate by the
26 Chairperson of the working group; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Senate and
29 the Speaker of the House of Representatives are each requested
30 to appoint one person to serve as a member of the working group;
31 and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
34 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
35 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
36 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
37 of 2016; and
38



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Labor and
3 Industrial Relations, President of the Senate, and Speaker of
4 the House of Representatives.
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OFFERED BY:

~~SEN. A.C. Fitch~~ [Signature]

